

THE STUDENT•FACULTY•COMMUNITY COALITION TO SAVE MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE

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Dear Students*Faculty*Community of Medgar Evers College,

The membership of the Steering Committee of the Student*Faculty*Community Coalition to Save Medgar Evers College wishes to thank you. Thank you for your participation in the revitalization of a dream. Thank you for having the much needed confidence in the Steering Committee which allowed us to move forward to attain each beautiful victory that we have all witnessed. Thank you for the dollars, the food, the visibility, the vigilance, the determination, the time, the hard work, the kind words of support, the smiles brought on rainy days, the willingness to make sacrifices, the willingness to STAND UP for A NEW MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE. Thank you!

We are at a very crucial point in our struggle to save Medgar Evers College. We are at the interim point of casting out the old and bringing in the new. We are at the point of pursuing the process of officially establishing a search committee that will conduct a national and international search to find a new president for our College. And since we are committed to having a permanent president who can build this college in the image of Medgar Evers, the man, we must be prepared to allow the search committee the necessary time to accomplish this all-important task. Therefore, we are at the point of needing to identify an interim leader, who can guide us and inspire us during this period while we are conducting our search for a permanent president. It is precisely because we are at the point of building that we call on each and every one of you to give all that you can give in the same tireless way that you gave to the struggle to remove Dr. Richard Trent as president of Medgar Evers College. It is precisely because we are at the point of building that we call on each and every one of you to work hard for UNITY within our college - UNITY amongst students, faculty, and OUR community.

Ours is not an easy task. We must once again touch hands and minds with one another. We must talk and struggle with each other and build a solid foundation. We must build in spite of every obstacle placed in our way. We must build in spite of Richard Trent and Company terminating nineteen people within the last couple of weeks. We must believe that we are building a college that will call back so many fallen soldiers who gave to the dream only to meet the wrath of Richard Trent. We must build in spite of a Board of Trustees that has continued to turn deaf ears on a people's cry for justice and quality education. Just as we sacrificed sleep, time, and hard work to see that our graduating seniors had a beautiful/cultural graduation and convocation in spite of Richard Trent's efforts to stop us, we must be willing to defy all difficulties and sacrifice to build our college.

Pursuant to the court order received by our attorney on May 24, 1982,

seven representatives of the Coalition met with seven representatives of the CUNY Board of Trustees and Central Office on Friday, June 18, 1982. After waiting forty minutes, the Coalition's representatives were joined by CUNY representatives in a discussion of the Coalition's agenda: the official notification and effective dates of Dr. Trent's removal. The CUNY representatives responded that they would be prepared with recommendations by July 5, 1982 after meetings of the Board subcommittee which is investigating charges against Dr. Trent. The chairperson of the Board subcommittee invited the Coalition to identify three representatives to testify at the meetings of the subcommittee. Although the Coalition believes that racism is a definite factor which has allowed the issue of Dr. Trent's removal to drag on unnecessarily long, we are prepared to testify. We do so, however, with the full understanding that, surely, our leverage in reaching this stage has been the student sit-in of the College president's office, and the ongoing support of this action by the student body, Faculty Organization, community organizations and leaders, and the Black press.

At this stage in the struggle for quality education and academic freedom, the Coalition believes it is essential to develop a consensus from the College community on an acting president. As we are aware, the Fall 1982 enrollment is a crucial concern during the projected transition period. In order to embark on an effective recruitment campaign for new students, the College community must be prepared to identify an interim administration who has the confidence of the MEC community and can provide effective leadership between the period of Dr. Trent's reassignment and the completion of a presidential search. A consensus is primary to ensure that the College community is not rocked in the future with continual dissension which marked Dr. Trent's administration as a result of his installation as college president by the CUNY Board of Higher Education without consultation and over the objections of the Central Brooklyn community. In short, the College community needs a consensus on an acting president who can provide leadership pursuant to the College's mission and the duties of the President as defined by the CUNY Bylaws.

The Coalition has proposed the following criteria for candidates for the position of Acting President:

1. That the person come from inside Medgar Evers College. This would provide for the most efficient transition since an inside person would be familiar with both our operation and needs. This also speaks to the quality of leadership we feel is available at our institution.

2. That the person have tenure at the College. This will ensure that the person has the academic and scholarly qualifications expected by both our College and the Board of Higher Education.

3. That the person have a community base or background of community involvement in Central Brooklyn. This will help to ensure that the person is aware of the needs of the Central Brooklyn community.

4. That the person have a history of involvement in the struggle for quality education. This will help to ensure that the person is someone who understands the necessity of preparing to fight for the DREAM.

5. That the person be a female. This criteria will help us in our effort to remain on a progressive path, since we will be the first institution in CUNY to have the possibility of obtaining a Black female president. It would also show our consideration and appreciation of both a seventy-three percent female population and the tremendous possibilities for our College under the direction of a female president.

6. That the person have a background as an effective administrator. This stipulation is in keeping with our resolve and commitment to the ideal of quality education.

7. That the person have demonstrated support for the student demands and issues. This will ensure that we obtain leadership that has proven itself to be sensitive to student concerns at our College.

The Coalition suggests that each component of our community have a full discussion on a process which will allow us to achieve a consensus by the College Community on the Acting President. Therefore, we urge you to attend the meetings called by your constituents (student, faculty, or community) to facilitate this discussion.

Again, we thank you for all of the contributions you have made thus far. We implore you to continue to sacrifice with the same spirit as we now begin to BUILD our College.

Together...we can, we will win!

Sincerely,

STEERING COMMITTEE
THE STUDENT*FACULTY*COMMUNITY COALITION
TO SAVE MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE